

Matt Fritze

My name is Matt Fritze and these comments are in response to the request from Mr. Wright that I be present for questioning during the public information meeting on May 13th. I am very sorry but I am unable to attend the meeting this evening but can offer some comments/clarifications on the subjects that were brought up. You are correct in that I work with these types of wastewater treatment systems every day but on a much larger scale. These small residential/domestic waste treatment systems while still regulated by the MPCA, are smaller than what I would normally work on. However, the treatment process that is designed for this project for Total Nitrogen (TN) removal is one that I am very familiar with. This treatment process (MBBR) has been widely used to treat domestic wastewater for a very long time. After reviewing the plans for this process, I am very confident that standard permitting process through MPCA will offer the neighborhood the level of protection and confidence that their well water and surface water will not be affected by this new treatment system. As required by MPCA, this system will be operated by a licensed operator and regular reporting is required. This treatment system should achieve lower TN values than many of the larger septic systems in the area.

In regards to my comment during a past public meeting about not wanting this treatment system across the street is being taken out of context. I was asked by a resident if I wanted the school across the street from my own home, and I answered honestly that I would not want to live across the street from the school. The reason for my answer did not have anything to do with the waste treatment system, but for the traffic concerns. Your comments Mr. Wright in many of those meetings were the very same issues I would be bringing up if I lived in your home. Your comments and questions were well thought out and provided for good discussion in terms of how to properly route traffic on this property and what would make the most sense. When buying our home, my wife and I preferred a quieter and more secluded place to live and therefore did not purchase a house across the street from a school or any other non-residential property. That is why I answered the question the way I did. If asked specifically if I would be ok living across the street from this specified treatment system, my answer would be absolutely yes. When designed and operated properly, they have less noise than most residential or agricultural uses. As discussed during one of the meetings, the main area of concern I would have for this waste treatment system if I was in close proximity would be the potential for noise created by rotating equipment. This system requires constant aeration for the aerobic bacteria in the process. This air is typically supplied by positive displacement blowers. For this system, the aerobic tanks are relatively shallow which results in lower noise levels to begin with. When you combine that with sound attenuating enclosures on the blowers, and putting the blowers in a building, the end result should have little to no noise that can be heard from outside the building. Especially at the distances from the closest neighboring home. If I was a resident in the nearby vicinity, that would be my only concern with this treatment system and the engineer has addressed those concerns with their design.

As we discussed during the public comment period for the CUP, these treatment systems are most often used in these neighborhood developments that do not have access to City Sewer as well as schools, golf courses, etc. There are several in the Stillwater and Lake Elmo area already. Most of these require the treatment system to be a much shorter distance to the closest occupied home as a developer doesn't want to tie up a lot of land dedicated to the treatment system. As a result, these systems need to be designed to blend into their surroundings and not produce concerns for nearby residents. I am confident that the design for this system will meet those same objectives.

Since I will not be able to attend the meeting, please feel free to reach out to me directly with any questions or concerns. Thank you.

Matt Fritze

mfritze@gnenv.com